

### **Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

### **Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling a continuous cobalt removal in conjunction with a zinc preparation process, in which the cobalt removal is performed in [[one or more reactors,]] at least two reactors comprising a first reactor and a second reactor connected in series and having a connecting pipe between the two reactors and an outlet pipe from the second reactor, in conjunction with the [[one or more]] two reactors, redox potential and acidity and/or basicity are measured, and process variables of the cobalt removal are adjusted toward a desired direction based on the measurement results, wherein the measurement of the redox potential is performed on a sludge produced in the [[one or more]] two reactors and is performed [[outside the one or more reactors,]] in the connecting pipe and in the outlet pipe, and measurement of the acidity and/or basicity are performed on a reactor solution and are determined by means of a BT value, and a measuring instrument of the redox potential is purified at predetermined intervals, and based on the measurement results, introduction of zinc powder into the cobalt removal reactor is adjusted.

2. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein a solid matter content of the reactor solution is determined and adjusted to be suitable.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein based on the measurement results, the redox potential of the sludge, the acidity/basicity of the solution, the solid matter content of the solution and/or the temperature of the reactor are adjusted.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the measuring instrument of acidity and/or basicity is arranged in conjunction with the [[one or more]] two reactors.

8. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the measurement of the redox potential is performed using a measurement electrode.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the measuring instrument is regularly washed.

11. (Previous Presented) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein in conjunction with each reactor, measurements are performed that control the adjustment of the desired process variable, for each reactor specifically.

12. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for controlling a continuous cobalt removal in conjunction with a zinc preparation process, in which the cobalt removal is performed in [[one or more reactors,]] at least two reactors comprising a first reactor and a second reactor connected in series and having a connecting pipe between the two reactors and an outlet pipe from the second reactor, the apparatus comprising at least one measuring instrument for measuring the redox potential and acidity and/or basicity in conjunction with the [[one or more]] at least two reactors, at least one adjustment device for adjusting process variables of the cobalt removal toward a [[the]] desired direction based on the measurement results, and at least one control device for forwarding the measurement results from the at least one measuring instrument to the at least one adjustment device, wherein the at least one measuring instrument of the redox potential is arranged [[outside the one or more reactors,]] in the connecting pipe and in the outlet pipe, and is placed in conjunction with a pipe connected to the one or more reactors, via which pipe sludge produced in the one or more reactors flows out, and apparatus comprises a determination device of BT value for determining the acidity and/or basicity of a reactor solution, and the apparatus comprises purification means for purifying the at least one measuring instrument of the redox potential at predetermined intervals, and based on the measurement results, introduction of zinc powder into the cobalt removal reactor is adjusted.

13. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as defined in claim 12, wherein the apparatus comprises a feeding device for introducing zinc powder into the one or more reactors, and the feeding device is connected to the at least one adjustment and/or at least one control device.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as defined in claim 12, wherein the measuring instrument of acidity and/or basicity is arranged in conjunction with the [[one or more]] two reactors.

16. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as defined in claim 12, wherein the measuring instrument of the redox potential comprises at least [[one]] two measurement [[electrode]] electrodes.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously Presented) The method defined in claim 1, wherein the measuring instrument is regularly washed at intervals of 1-2 hours.

19. (New) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the outlet pipe comprises a connecting pipe to a third reactor.

20. (New) The apparatus as defined in claim 12, wherein the outlet pipe comprises a connecting pipe to a third reactor.

**Support for Amendment:**

Claim 1 is amended to include the features of cancelled claims 5 and 6, and claim 12 is amended to include the features of cancelled claim 14. In general, claims 1 and 12 are amended to characterize the “one or more reactors” as at least two reactors comprising a first reactor and a second reactor connected in series and having a connecting pipe between the two reactors and an outlet pipe from the second reactor. In addition, the measuring instrument of the redox potential is arranged in the connecting pipe between the two reactors and in the outlet pipe of the second reactor. This is additionally supported by the disclosure of the above-identified patent application at, for example, page 9, line 27 through page 16, line 7, and Figure 2.

Claims 5, 6, and 14 are cancelled.

Claims 7, 15, and 16 are amended in view of the changes to claims 1 and 12.

New claims 19 and 20 are introduced characterizing the outlet pipe from the second reactor as a connecting pipe to a third reactor. This amendment is supported by the specification at, for example, page 9, line 27 through page 10, line 7, and Figure 2. It is pointed out that the outlet pipe of one reactor can be the connecting pipe between that reactor and a subsequent reactor.

No new matter is introduced by this amendment, and entry thereof is requested. Upon entry, claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 10-13, 15, 16, and 18-20 are active in this application.